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Message Text

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12
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 OMB-01

/060 W
---------- 019410
R 071548Z MAY 76
FM AMEMBASSY LONDON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1472
INFO AMCONSUL BELFAST
AMCONSUL EDINBURGH

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PGOV, PINT, UK
SUBJECT: COMMITTEE CONTROL: THE FINAL CHAPTER

REF: LONDON 6810

1. THE FINAL INSTALLMENT OF THE CONFLICT OVER CONTROL OF STANDING COMMITTEES IN THE HOUSE OF COMMONS WAS PLAYED OUT IN THE DAYS IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING DEATH OF SELECTION COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN HUGH DELARGY (REFTEL). LEADER OF HOUSE MICHAEL FOOT QUICKLY TOOK CHARGE OF THE MATTER AND WAS ABLE TO REACH A SATISFACTORY COMPROMISE ARRANGEMENT WITH CONSERVATIVE SHADOW LEADER JOHN PEYTON. THEIR A-GREEMENT FOLLOWED THE COMPROMISE PROPOSAL ORIGINALLY SUG-GESTED BY TORIES: STANDING COMMITTEES WILL HAVE EVEN NUMBER OF MEMBERS AND REPRESENTATION WILL BE EVENLY DI-VIDED BETWEEN LABOR AND COMBINED OPPOSITION PARTIES; GOVERNMENT WILL BE ALLOWED TO NAME AT LEAST ONE MEMBER OF COMMITTEES FROM MINOR PARTIES.

2. COMMENT: THIS COMPROMISE, WHILE LESSENING GOVERN-MENT'S ABILITY TO GUARANTEE CONTINUED CONTROL OF NEWLY APPOINTED COMMITTEES, SHOULD NOT DAMAGE ITS LEGISLATIVE
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PROGRAM SIGNIFICANTLY. BY CHOOSING CAREFULLY FROM AMONG

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MEMBERS OF IDEOLOGICALLY DISPARATE MINOR PARTIES, IT SHOUID IN MOST CASES BE ABLE TO FIND AN MP WHO WILL SUPPORT GOVERNMENT POSITION. RESOLUTION OF THIS DISPUTE SHOULD CAUSE TORIES TO DISCONTINUE THEIR HARASSMENT TACTICS, THOUGH SOME BAD FEELING WILL UNDOUBTEDLY LINGER.

ARMSTRONG

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: POLITICAL LEADERS, POLITICAL PARTIES, LOWER HOUSE, COMMITTEES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 07 MAY 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: ElyME
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976LONDON07049
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760178-0295
From: LONDON
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760581/aaaacqry.tel
Line Count: 68
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 LONDON 6810
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ElyME
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 13 MAY 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <13 MAY 2004 by GarlanWA>; APPROVED <07 SEP 2004 by ElyME>
Review Markings:

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US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: COMMITTEE CONTROL: THE FINAL CHAPTER
TAGS: PGOV, PINT, UK, (DELARGY, HUGH), (FOOT, MICHAEL), (PEYTON, JOHN)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006